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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/401,983	09/23/1999	TOSHIHIKO FUKASAWA	35.G2465	5397
5514	7590	05/07/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			WHIPKEY, JASON T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/401,983	FUKASAWA, TOSHIHIKO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jason T. Whipkey	2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,9,10 and 17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 3-8 and 11-16 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 1999 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference signs not mentioned in the description: 411 (Figure 4), 531 (Figure 9), S1304 (Figure 17), and S1411 (Figure 18). Corrected drawings or an amendment to the specification to add the reference signs to the description are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “516” has been used to designate both a CC control module in Figure 10 and a CS control module in figures 11-14. Corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “517” has been used to designate both a CS control module in Figure 10 and a CC control module in figures 11-14. Corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference sign "501" mentioned on line 1 of page 21 of the description. Corrected drawings or an amendment to the specification are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which Applicant may become aware in the specification.

6. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

7. The disclosure is objected to because of an informality.

On lines 22-23 of page 3, the phrase "while complemeting problems" is unintelligible. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

8. Claims 4, 6-8, and 13-16 are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites the limitation “said information storing means” on line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, “said information storage means”.

Claims 6 and 14 recite the limitation “the camera which is already being used” on lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, “a camera which is already being used”.

Claims 7 and 15 recite the limitation “the camera which is already being used” on lines 4-5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, “a camera which is already being used”.

Claims 8 and 16 recite the limitation “the camera which is already being used” on line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, “a camera which is already being used”.

Claim 13 recites the limitation “the camera which is already being used” on line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, “a camera which is already being used”.

9. Claims 8 and 16 are objected to because of a misspelling.

On line 4 of both claims, “an operation righ” should be replaced with -- an operation

right --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeng (U.S. Patent No. 5,959,667) in view of Oya (U.S. Patent No. 6,208,379).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Maeng discloses a camera operation system, as shown in Figure 1. The system controls a plurality of cameras 19. A set of cameras to be moved is selected by camera controller 18 (“camera setting means”) (column 4, lines 12-15). Preset selector 16 (“movement setting means”) compares the location of speaker 11 with a preset location, and if speaker 11 is close to a preset location (“conditions”), cameras 19 are moved to the preset (“contents of a linked movement”) (column 4, lines 42-49). Preset selection system 15 (“starting means”) sends the preset data to camera controller 18 (“output means”) to initiate the movement of cameras 19 to the preset position (column 4, lines 49-51).

Maeng is silent with regard to the cameras being controlled via a network.

Oya discloses a system of networked cameras, wherein a remote terminal can control an arbitrary camera via a network (column 4, lines 20-24). An advantage to controlling a camera via a network is that one of a plurality of ordinary computers can monitor a scene remotely. For this reason, it would have been obvious at the time of invention to have Maeng's system receive controls from via a network.

Maeng is also silent with regard to including camera-state-information acquisition means.

Oya's system is capable of receiving the panning and tilting angles and the zoom amount at which each camera is currently set (column 7, lines 17-32). An advantage to receiving such information is that a user may be notified if a mechanical malfunction occurs. For this reason, it would have been obvious at the time of invention to have Maeng's system track the panning and tilting angles and the zoom amount at which each camera is currently set.

Claim 17 may be treated like claims 1 and 9. Additionally, Maeng teaches that the system may be implemented using software executed by computer hardware (column 4, lines 21-25).

12. Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeng in view of Oya and further in view of Yonezawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,191).

Claims 2 and 10 may be treated like claims 1 and 9, respectively. However, Maeng and Oya are silent with regard to allowing a client to set a camera identifier.

Yonezawa discloses a camera control apparatus that allows a plurality of cameras to be controlled via a network, as shown in Figure 2. Monitoring terminal 60 ("an arbitrary client apparatus") includes a map editor for configuring the system (column 11, lines 58-60). The map

editor allows an operator at a monitoring terminal to set a camera's name ("an identifier") (column 12, lines 41-43). An advantage to allowing an identifier to be set on a camera is that a more user-friendly name can be implemented, which increases the ease of use of the system. An advantage to allowing an identifier to be set by any arbitrary client apparatus is that the system may be more easily configured. For these reasons, it would have been obvious at the time of invention to have Oya's system allow an arbitrary client to set camera names.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 3-8 and 11-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding all of these claims, no prior art could be located that teaches or fairly suggests a networked camera system that controls cameras with a specified condition to receive the contents of a linked movement, wherein when operation rights for a specific camera are requested, operation rights for at least one camera linked to that specific camera are also requested.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason T. Whipkey, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1819. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. eastern daylight time, alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber, can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTW
April 29, 2004

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